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The Post Gets a Pueblo Letter

Writer Asks U.S. Apology To Save Lives

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A handwritten four-page letter bearing the signature of a Pueblo crewman, was received by The Washington Post yesterday. It appeals for U.S. Government action lest the Pueblo crew "spend the rest of our lives" in North Korea or "be shot as criminals."

The letter was signed by Michael T. Barrett. Navy records list such a man as a Communications Technician 1st Class in the captured 82-man crew of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo.

Enclosed were two snapshots, presumably of Barrett, one alone, the other with an unidentified fellow crewman whose picture reportedly has appeared in other Pueblo appeals received recently.

The letter was dispatched in an unstamped airmail envelope which in turn was forwarded to the Washington Post in a white envelope bearing a New York postmark and return address.

U.S. officials indicated this is the first of the various Pueblo crew appeals known to have a return address.

But this return address, a handwritten "Branahan, 3850 E. 220th st., New York, U.S.A.", turned out to be nonexistent.

In his letter, Barrett follows a most serious crime" by vio-



This and another photo of the man at left were in a letter to The Washington Post.

other such appeals in referring to his captors with the North Korean Communist regime's formal nomenclature: "People's Army of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea." He makes only one spelling mistake, an extra "t" in "writting."

Following similar letters that have been sent to relatives and friends of crew members, as well as Congressmen, Barrett refers to the Pueblo as having "committed

lating North Korean territorial waters six times by the time it was captured on Jan. 23.

On the capture date, Barrett says, the Pueblo was 7.6 miles off an island near North Korea's harbor of Wonsan. U.S. officials insist the Pueblo was 15.6 miles offshore at the time and in international waters.

Barrett repeatedly states that a U.S. Government apology is needed for the Pueblo's intrusion.

"I am rather disappointed,"

the letter writer declares, "that our government has not yet seen fit to apologize in the light of all the facts which prove that the USS Pueblo did commit these acts. I consider that if our government were to own up to these facts rather than save face by denying them, and if our government were to make a sincere apology and an honest guarantee that these crimes will not be committed again, then perhaps our speedy repatriation will be realized."